

Tysons Corner Discount Toy Store Closes

By Adrienne Washington

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Just as moms and dads contemplated getting an early start on Santa Claus this year by shopping at the new discount toy store in Tysons Corner, it closed.

Toys-R-Us, a chain of discount toy stores, opened an outlet in Tysons Corner this past weekend but halted sales yesterday when a Fairfax County Circuit Court judge threatened to close the store for violation of state and county building codes.

The store, located at 8449 Leesburg Pike, had opened without the required building inspections or nonresidential use permit, according to Edward J. Finnegan, assistant county attorney.

Finnegan said the building created "a safety hazard" and the staff "sought to close the place down."

But before Judge William D. Plummer ordered the store closed, the chain's management volunteered to cease operations until the permit is issued.

Robert A. Lawrence, attorney for the store, said his client had tried to resolve the problem without closing.

"There is a difference of opinion on what remains to be done and that has to be worked out by both parties at the site," Lawrence said.

Finnegan said inspectors notified the store on Thursday what the safety hazards were, but they still had not been corrected yesterday afternoon.

According to court documents, the Tysons Corner Toys-R-Us had not received final approval of the electrical, plumbing or mechanical systems. Inspections of those fixtures are needed before a new building can be occupied.

The county's zoning staff had not issued the business a nonresidential use permit, which is granted only after all other regulations — including inspection by the fire marshal's office — are satisfied.

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